



State of California  
The Natural Resources Agency  
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

## NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

**PROJECT TITLE** First Law Around Managing the Environment – SRA Grant #5GS15150

**PROJECT LOCATION** Sections 11,12, Township 10N, Range 03E, HB&M **COUNTY** Humboldt

**LEAD AGENCY** California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)

**CONTACT** Jason Butcher

**ADDRESS** 118 Fortuna Blvd, Fortuna, CA 95540 **PHONE** 707-726-1258

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Several private landowner parcels within the Yurok Indian Reservation, totaling approximately 86 acres, are to be burned for a variety of cultural benefits and to reduce or eliminate the hazardous fire fuels that have built up over the decades since cultural fire was last used to manage these landscapes. This project is a continuation of a community effort to reintroduce prescribed fire to the Klamath River corridor through Prescribed Fire Training Exchange (Trex) events. Trex is a collaborative event, supported by The Yurok Tribe, The Nature Conservancy, US Forest Service, BIA and many local stakeholders, which will enhance important cultural resources such as wildlife habitat, basket weaving material, food sources, such as acorns, and reduce hazardous fire fuels. The project proposes to meet these objectives using a low intensity understory broadcast burning technique. The overstory is multi-aged Douglas-fir and hardwood stand with a dense understory of small firs and various brush species indigenous to the coast ranges. Trex events typically occur in the spring or fall when extreme weather and ultra-dry conditions are not an issue and have a narrow operating window ranging from 1 to 7 days. This project will be completed in one day. Existing roads (HWY 169, Cappell Rd) and newly constructed handlines will surround the prescribed fire.

### EXEMPTION STATUS

- ☒ **Categorical Exemption** Type and Section: Class 4 §15304 (i) Minor Alterations to Land
- ☐ **Statutory Exemption** (state code section):
- ☐ **Ministerial** (§21080(b)(1); 15268)
- ☐ **Declared Emergency** (§21080(b)(3); 15269(a))
- ☐ **Emergency Project** (§21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c))

### REASONS PROJECT IS EXEMPT

This project fits under portions of three Categorical Exemptions to CEQA:

- **Class 4 §15304 (i) – Minor Alterations to Land.** This includes treatment areas where vegetation treatment does not involve removal of mature, healthy, or scenic trees. This treatment has negligible effects on the landscape and will not result in the taking of rare, endangered or threatened species of plants or animals.

Field review by CAL FIRE staff confirmed that no exceptions apply that would preclude the use of a notice of exemption for this project. The Department has concluded that no significant environmental impact would occur to aesthetics, agriculture and forestland or timberland, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use planning, mineral resources, noise, population and housing, public services, recreation, transportation or traffic, or to utilities and service systems. Documentation of the environmental review completed by the Department is kept on file at CAL FIRE Humboldt – Del Norte Unit HQ, 118 Fortuna Blvd., Fortuna, CA 95540.

### DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

MAY 30 2017

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

  
Helge Eng, Deputy Director

Date

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

5/24/17